

HOWNIKAN

PEOPLE OF THE FIRE

Vol. 21, No. 4

Citizen Potawatomi Nation

April 1999



Rocky Baptiste, Jon Ketzler And Jeremy Finch Dance At Last Year's Potawatomi Night. This Year's Festival Will Expand The All-Tribal Activities.

Nation's first Potawatomi Festival premieres June 25

Fun, fellowship, and spiritual renewal will flow from a full slate of activities for Citizen Potawatomi tribal members in late June. The nation will host its inaugural Citizen Potawatomi Heritage Festival, replacing the Nation's annual intertribal pow wow.

This year's event will be very special and reserved for Potawatomi family and their extended family (in-laws, etc). Also invited are Citizen Potawatomi Nation employees and their immediate family. All those who attend will be registered and given identification to show their family affiliation for the reunions. A gift bag will also be given for use throughout the festival. It will contain food coupons and other useful items.

Festivities will begin on Friday, June 25 and continue through

Sunday, June 27, in and around the tribe's headquarters in south Shawnee. The Potawatomi Festival's centerpiece will be an All-Potawatomi Pow Wow Dance at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 26.

"There will be lots of family competition, food, fellowship, fun, and prizes," said John "Rocky" Barrett, Citizen Potawatomi Chairman. "We hope to attract more Potawatomi back home than have attended our pow wows in the past. We are trying to create new Citizen Potawatomi tradition. Instead of watching Indians from other tribes dance and win our money, we are going to celebrate being Potawatomi — and Potawatomi know how to have a good time."

Linda Capps, Citizen Potawatomi Vice Chairman, explained that "the orientation of the Potawatomi Festival is multi-

generational. We want tribal members of all ages, from infants to our elders, to attend, participate, and enjoy themselves."

Members of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation responded so well to last year's Friday evening "All-Potawatomi Pow Wow" that the Business Committee members have taken the concept two steps further. *This is a two-day extension of last year's "Potawatomi Only" celebration and replaces the inter-tribal pow wow, forming the Nation's first heritage festival.*

Just as last year's Friday evening event was a time of celebration, singing, dancing, and gathering of friends and family, the festival promises equally gala events with more freedom for all to participate. "The festival provides choices — to participate in and observe cultural events, to

Continued On Page 3

Deadline nears for absentee ballot applications for CPN election

There are two races for Citizen Potawatomi nation voters to decide at the election on Saturday, June 26, 1999. Clarice (Vieux) Murdock is challenging Business Committee member Hilton Melot as he seeks a fourth term. Barry Branscum is seeking the Grievance Committee position currently held by Teresa Vieux.

The election will be held from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday, June 26, during the General Council and First Annual

Request For Absentee Ballot Form On Page 16

DEADLINE JUNE 6



Citizen Potawatomi Nation Festival. In-person balloting will be in the Long Room in the Nation's Tribal Court Building at 1901 S. Gordon Cooper Drive in Shawnee.

Tribal members who will not be able to attend these events can request an absentee ballot by writing to Potawatomi Elec-

tion Committee, P.O. Box 310, Tecumseh, OK 74873. An official Request for Absentee Ballot appears on page 16 of this edition of the *HowNiKan*. **Applications must be postmarked by June 6.**

To seek any elective office within the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, a person must

be: at least 21 years old; a tribal member; and, a resident of Pottawatomie, Seminole, Pontotoc, McClain, Oklahoma, Lincoln, Cleveland, or Okfuskee county in Oklahoma.

Three conditions disqualify otherwise eligible candidates: having been convicted of a felony; having been found civilly or criminally liable for a breach of fiduciary duty to the tribe; or, having been impeached or recalled by the tribe.

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TRIBAL TRACTS

Walking on ...

EDITH E. ANDERSON

Edith E. Anderson died in the early morning of March 2, 1999, at Martha & Mary nursing home following a long battle with Parkinson's disease. She was born April 7, 1915 in Musselshell, Montana to Lycurgus and Mary (Bowles) Stovall. Herman H. Anderson and Edith met while working on the Lofall ferry in 1953. They married in 1955 and made their home near Poulso.

She is survived by her husband, Herman; her son and daughter-in-law Bob and Gretchen Murphy, Poulso; older sister Regina Turley Montana and Houston, Texas; younger sister Alberta Dowd, Barstow, California; older brother and wife Jess Stovall, West Yellowstone; younger brother Lycurgus and wife Stovall, Livingston, Montana; numerous nephews and nieces, children of above; two grandchildren, Pat Murphy, Everett and Sondra Barnes of Kansas City, Missouri and four great-grandchildren.

Burial was March 3, 1999. At her request, no services were held.

FANNIE LONG

Former Trousdale resident Fannie Long, 93, died Tuesday, March 16, 1999, in Napa, California. She was born July 8, 1905, in Trousdale, Indian Territory, to George and Cora Livvix Gregson. She is

survived by a nephew and his wife, Harold and Ruby Gregson, Napa, California; two brothers and sister-in-law: Glen and Eloise Gregson of Denison, Texas, and Roy Gregson, Shawnee; two sisters and a brother-in-law: Eleanor Fincher of Chandler, Arizona, and Norman and Wyman Catlege, Talihina, Oklahoma; 12 nephews, 19 nieces, and many more relatives & friends. She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, four brothers and three sisters.

Mrs. Long was a member of Citizen Potawatomi Nation and was the great-granddaughter of Jude and Catherine Bourassa. She was a loving sister and aunt; she will be greatly missed. Memorials can be made to the American Cancer Society or the American Heart Society.

MICHAEL KEVIN WANO JR.

Michael Kevin Wano Jr., 18, of Coal Hill, Arkansas, died March 27, 1999 at Johnson Regional Medical Center in Clarksville, Arkansas.

He attended Clarksville High School and worked at the Wal-Mart Distribution Center. Michael was born March 7, 1981 in Houston, Texas, but moved to Coal Hill at an early age and lived there for the rest of his young life. He was an avid bow-hunter and expert fisherman. He loved the outdoor life.

Michael was preceded in death by his grandfather Henry L. (Pete) Wano and Luke (Pete) Wilson. He is survived by his father, Michael Kevin Wano, Sr. of Oklahoma City, mother Kathy Wilson of Coal Hill, sisters Sheena and Summer Wano of Coal Hill, grandmothers Rosemary Wano of Maywood, Illinois and Joyce Wilson of Coal Hill, great-grandmother Rose Chaney of Maywood, Illinois, uncles Henry L. (Pete) Wano, Jr. and Steven Wano of Maywood, Illinois, Larry Wilson, Houston, Texas, aunts Gina Archer and Laurie Wilson of Houston, Mary Morgan and Luann Satterfield of Coal Hill, and many cousins.

Michael was very proud of his Potawatomi heritage but now he walks with the Great Spirit. He was loved by many and he is missed profoundly by all who cherished him.

ALVA CORNELIUS "JACK" CARGILL

Alva Cornelius "Jack" Cargill of Arlington, Georgia, died on December 29, 1998, of lung cancer. He was born in Oklahoma on August 27, 1919. He was a Willmetts descendant.

During World War II Jack served in the European Theater and in the Asiatic-

Pacific Theater with the 1339th Construction Battalion. He was a stonemason and a construction foreman. He was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Medal, American Theater Service Ribbon, European Theater Ribbon, and the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon. He is survived by his son, Jack, of Del Ray Beach, Florida, and his step-daughter, Carolyn, and her husband, Allen Smith of Shawnee, Kansas. He is also survived by four sisters and two brothers, Alta M. Sinor of Chouteau, Oklahoma; Lenora Williams, Edna DeShields, Pauline Gullans, James, and Frank, all of California. Preceding him in death was his wife, Juanita; his parents, Florence Bessie "Willmetts" Cargill, Canneaux, and his father, James L. Cargill. Also brothers Ray and Albert and sister, Joyce F. McCurley.

"Mr. Jack" as he was known by his friends in Georgia loved to tell tales about his childhood as a young Indian boy growing up in Oklahoma. He was often invited into the schools to speak to the school children. He delighted in dressing up in his headdress and costume and to ride in celebrations and parades. He was very proud of his Indian heritage. He is so missed by his family and friends.

Goldie Mae Armstrong

Goldie Mae Armstrong died Tuesday, April 6, 1999, on the eve of her 85th birthday at Westminster Village Nursing Home in Ponca City, Oklahoma. The funeral was a graveside service at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Oklahoma City. The Rev. Hance Dilbeck, pastor, Ponca City First Baptist Church officiated. Arrangements were under the direction of Trout Funeral Home.

Mrs. Armstrong was born April 7, 1914, in Choctaw, Oklahoma to Edward and Inez (Dann) Mitchell. Until the death of her father, Edward, in 1915 she lived on the farm of her grandparents, Harriet Evelyn (Tescier) Mitchell, Citizen Potawatomi Allottee #555, and James Mitchell, Sr. Her great-grandfather was Peter Tescier, Citizen Potawatomi Allottee #367. She was married to Cecil L. Kessler and to this union was born two sons and a daughter. She later married Joseph Thomas Armstrong, Jr. who preceded her in death in 1989.

Survivors include one daughter, Almeda Crook and her husband Victor of Ponca City; two sons, Carl Leroy Kessler and his wife Leah of Edmond,

and Earl Edward Kessler and his wife Donna of Keno, Oregon; six grandchildren; and 10 great grandchildren.

TERRY LEE NORTHCROSS

Terry Lee Northcross died Tuesday, April 27, 1999, in Shawnee. He was 51.

Mr. Northcross was born September 22, 1947, in Tulsa to Hardy and Maudie Leona (Peltier) Northcross. He married Rita Edwards on October 13, 1993, in Shawnee. He served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. He worked as a roofer and attended Faith Believers Church in Sparks.

Survivors include his wife, Rita Northcross, Chandler; stepsons Lonnie Payne, Tecumseh, and Larry Payne, Quitaque, Texas; stepdaughters Lisa Almand, Harrah, and Linda Canada, Shawnee; brothers, Hardy Northcross, Tulsa, Joe Northcross, Henryetta, Larry Northcross, Afton, and Phillip Northcross, Meeker; sisters, Thalia Daniels and Cathy Johns, both of Okmulgee, Lynn Northcross, Tahlequah, and Lela Wakley, Chandler; 11 grandchildren and many other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his father.

Services were held April 30 at Faith Believers Church in Sparks with Ron Walker officiating. Burial was in White Dove Cemetery in Sparks under the direction of Parks Brothers Funeral Home, Chandler.

LAVERNE C. (BRANT) WHITENACK

Laverne C. (Brant) Whitenack passed away in Sacramento February 3, 1999.

She was a tribal member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, born December 17, 1918, in Oklahoma. She was retired from the Sacramento Army Depot. She was a resident of Fair Oaks for 50 years. Mrs. Whitenack was the granddaughter of Hannah (Cummings) Brant and the daughter of Samuel J. Brant.

She is survived by her husband Merle C. Whitenack, children Carol Keefauver of Yuba City, CA. Robert M. Young of Cupertino, and Lois Meidinger of New Castle. She is also survived by 7 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren, sisters Imogene Huffman of Boulder City, NV; Helen Butler of Tacoma, WA.; Jennie Minshew of Ft. Davis, TX; Mary Alice Johnson of Visalia, CA., and Jessie Taylor of Visalia, CA.

Services were held February 5, 1999, at 11:00am at Village Chapel 7960 Winding Way, Fair Oaks, California 95628. Interment was held at Fair Oaks Cemetery. Memorials can be made to the Make a Wish Foundation.

HOWNIKAN PEOPLE OF THE FIRE

The HowNiKan is published by the Business Committee of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation with offices at 1601 Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma 74801.

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All correspondence should be directed to HowNiKan, 1601 Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Ok. 74801. Address changes should be sent to Potawatomi Tribal Rolls, 1601 Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801.

Citizen Potawatomi Nation Business Committee
Chairman - John A. "Rocky" Barrett Jr.
Vice Chairman - Linda Capps
Sec./Treasurer - Gene Bruno
Committeeman - Hilton Melot
Committeeman - Jerry P. Motley

Toll-Free Number: 1-800-880-9880
<http://www.potawatomi.org>

Entertainment, spiritual services, more planned for Festival

Continued From Page 1

attend athletic events and games featuring participation of Potawatomi families and employee families," Secretary-Treasurer Gene Bruno explained. "In addition, we will get to share traditional and not-so-traditional foods, begin learning the Potawatomi language and crafts (or increase our Potawatomi language and crafts skills), tour Sacred Heart Mission, and enjoy visiting with Potawatomi friends and family."

In addition to Country and Western dancing on Friday, there will be increased opportunities to Indian dance on Saturday. Committeeman Hilton Melot commented: "This festival event will also be an opportunity for Potawatomi to meet tribal employees and their families. We look forward to our members getting to know the people who work so hard for them and who are so important to our success as a tribe."

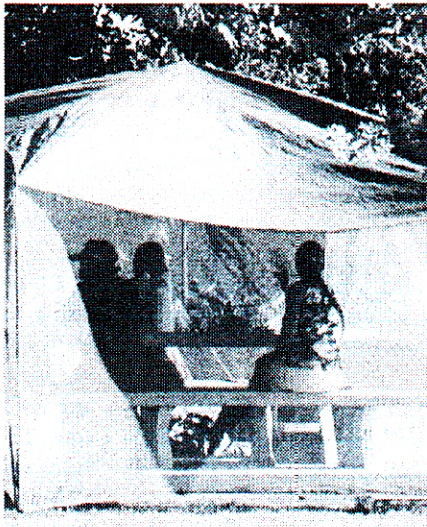
The Potawatomi Nation will have more than \$20,000 in cash and merchandise prizes available to winners of the multitude of competitions. Six meals will be served. Music will play and singing will be heard frequently all day, setting the tone for all to have a tremendously enjoyable three days.

Friday activities will feature a Country-and-Western dance, at the Nation's facility east of Gordon Cooper Drive on Hardesty Road. This was a special request of the Citizen Potawatomi elders, who hold a Friday night dance each week with a live band. The dancing will begin at 8:00 p.m. and continue until midnight – or whenever Festival participants are ready to put a cap on the evening. For those who do not want to dance, the Nation will provide other types of musical or cultural entertainment at the pow wow grounds.

Other Friday events will include a fry bread-making contest and a 6:30 p.m. Indian taco dinner on the pow wow grounds. Softball, horseshoes, and 3-on-3 basketball competitions will be organized.

Saturday will revolve around the All-Potawatomi Pow Wow Dance at 8:00 p.m. Only Potawatomi tribal members, their immediate and extended family, in-laws, and employees and their immediate family will be invited to dance. The dancing will continue until 11:00 p.m., or later.

"We will have dances for the children, couples, veterans, and others," explained Committe-



**F a m i l y
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man J.P. Motley. "We will dance the two-step and other couples dances — all of the fun pow wow dances that our people will enjoy." In addition, we will have two contest dances: Women's Cloth (all ages may enter) and Men's Straight (all ages may enter). Only Citizen Potawatomi are eligible to win prizes of \$500 for first place, and \$200 each for second, third, fourth, and fifth places. Proper regalia is required. All young children and toddlers ("tiny tots") will win \$5.00 for dancing in regalia.

Following the All-Potawatomi Pow Wow Dance, a night golf tournament will begin at 10:00 p.m. This will be a nine-hole scramble event for golfers who enjoy playing by flashlight with lighted golf balls and flagpoles on the greens. Carts will be assigned to all participants. This event should last until 12:00.

A horseshoes tournament, bowling competition, storytelling or native crafts, and a Best Indian Car (car must run) contest are on the agenda. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Art Contest national finals will be held on Saturday, to be followed by a ceremony at which the winners are announced and rewarded.

Saturday will begin with breakfast at several locations in the tribal complex. Lunch will be served at noon. The Nation will serve Saturday dinner at 6:30 p.m. in the Round House. Water and "cooling off" areas will be provided at the powwow grounds.

There will be a softball tournament and both a daylight and the

nighttime golf tournament, at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's FireLake Course.

The Citizen Potawatomi Festival will continue in a quiet, spiritual manner on Sunday. Traditional sunrise services will begin the day, followed by breakfast. There will be church services at mid-morning, on the pow wow grounds or at the historic church located just south of the tribal office building. Final contests of the softball, horseshoe, bowling, and basketball tournaments will be held Sunday afternoon if not finished Saturday.

There will be a multiple-bus tour of the Sacred Heart Mission, near Konawa, Oklahoma; it occupies a special place in the Oklahoma portion of the Potawatomi Nation's history. There will be several tour leaders to tell the story. The new walking history trail at Sacred Heart will be incorporated into the tour and a sack lunch will be provided.

All of the Nation's facilities will be open to tribal members who want to bowl, golf, or swim.

At a final gathering, on Sunday, tribal members will meet to offer ideas for the year 2000 festival and view a presentation on the Nation's history, culture, government, and business enterprises. The Potawatomi Festival will conclude at sundown on Sunday, June 27.

"Throughout the Festival, children will be able to enjoy special attractions and bumper bowl at the FireLake Bowling Center. The bowling center will feature 'Rock and Bowl' for the teens, with prizes," said Capps.

Because family is of utmost importance to the Citizen Potawatomi, at least eight Family Reunion tents will be available to the Potawatomi families who congregate in Shawnee at this time each year to visit with family members they have not seen recently. Indoor facilities will also be provided. Reunions will be held this year for the Navarre, Vieux, Melot, Peltier, Bourassa, Burnett, Wamego, and Willmet families.

"Each year will feature eight different families so we can have a reunion for each of our 40 original families every five years" said Committeeman J.P. Motley, a Burnett family descendent.

"At Potawatomi Nation Regional Council meetings around the country," Motley added, "tribal members have expressed a high degree of interest in learn-

ing more about our Potawatomi roots and heritage, so we will have computers set up to allow them to obtain genealogical information. In addition, Tribal Rolls Department employees with knowledge about the histories of particular Potawatomi families will present 'family tales.'"

The swimming pool and playground for children at the tribal headquarters building will be open and supervised.

The Festival will also offer an opportunity for tribal members to gather to conduct the Nation's business. The annual General Council Meeting and tribal election are scheduled for Saturday, June 26. Tribal members will elect a Business Committee member and a Grievance Committee member.

JOB OPENING

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation has a Tribal Librarian/Archivist position open in the Tribal Rolls Department. Responsibilities include: administering tribal library and archives; performing services such as selection, acquisition, cataloguing, classification, in-house circulation, and maintenance of library materials; and, furnishing reference, bibliographical, and reader's advisory services to tribal members. The incumbent is also required to assist tribal members with all information requests. A Bachelor's of Arts degree in Library Science is required. An advanced degree in Library Science is preferred. At the minimum, candidates must possess a Public Librarian certificate and have two years of experience in a public or specialized library. Experience with archival administration and information retrieval in a research-oriented cultural organization is required. Citizen Potawatomi Nation members or persons with extensive knowledge of Northeastern Woodland Indian Nations will be given hiring priority. This is a full-time position, with a full benefits package. Please send resumes to: Shirl Eastep, Human Resources Department, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, 1601 South Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801.

NOTICE: CPN Tribal Membership Cards Limited

Citizen Potawatomi members will be able to receive no more than three tribal membership cards per member in the future. The policy change was initiated to conserve the tribe's resources and use them in the wisest possible manner.

Baseball was good to Indian boy from Sacred Heart

By Gloria Trotter

(Editor's note: Isaac "Ike" Kahdot, believed to be the oldest living Citizen Potawatomi and the Nation's only full-blood member, walked on recently. Mr. Kahdot lived a full, enjoyable life. Gloria Trotter visited Kahdot's home, interviewed him, and wrote a March 1992 story for the *HowNiKan*. We reprise that story in memory of Mr. Kahdot.)

He might be the last full-blood Citizen Potawatomi tribal member, but his 90-year life story is marked with chapters leading him gradually away from that heritage, into professional baseball and the oil fields. Isaac "Ike" Kahdot, who turned 90 last October, had been planting onions but settled into a chair to recall a lifetime of adventure that began in 1901 in Sacred Heart, Oklahoma.

His father, Peter Kahdot, had a place in the Georgetown community near the historic Catholic mission and school, and raised his family there. Ike was the oldest of five children, and though he has none of his own, has always looked out for other family members. His grandmother was a full-blood Potawatomi. His family, including niece Esther Lowden, thinks Ike, too, is 100 percent Potawatomi, although his blood degree card reads 15 / 16.

Naturally, Ike started school at Sacred Heart — but he didn't stay long. "There were only two boys there at the time," he

recalled. "I didn't like the priests, so I ran off every chance I got."

His tenure at Sacred Heart ended because he was with another boy, who was smoking, and they were caught. "I didn't smoke," Ike said. "My mom smoked, and I would light it for her." This time, a priest smelled tobacco on the boys and blamed them both. Ike was whipped, and ran away from the Sacred Heart for the last time. He was only about six years old.

The family decided to send him to the Friends Mission School near the current tribal complex (the recently restored church building was part of that mission). Ike and the other students lived there while studying the white man's ways. "We went to the little church on Wednesday and Thursday and on Sunday morning," he said. "The preacher was on the south end and the seats were on the north end."

Kahdot also recalls a Catholic woman who became disturbed that the Catholic Indian children were attending Quaker services. "She made a ruckus, so all the Catholics had to get in a wagon and go to church in Shawnee."

The young Potawatomi liked that school better than Sacred Heart and remained there until he was 13 years old, when he was sent to Haskell. That's where the baseball bug bit him. He played third base for the school team, competing against teams from Army, St. Mary's, Bartlesville, Pawnee, and more.

Kahdot stayed at Haskell until he was 18, although the stay was not uninterrupted. He and Luther Snake took a notion to go home one day, then spent two days getting back to Shawnee, including hopping trains and walking from Meeker on into Shawnee after they were thrown off the train. "We got lonesome for Shawnee," he said. The Shawnee Indian Agency put him to work for awhile, building a fence. Then they sent him back to Haskell.

There, baseball began to take over his life. In about 1917, he was hired by Empire Oil and Gas, primarily to play on their baseball team on weekends and holidays. It was a matter of time before he was a professional baseball player, first for Joplin in the Western League. Then, he was farmed out to Pittsburg, Kansas, in the old Southwestern League.

He was playing shortstop for the Cleveland Indians when he was 22 years old, and then was sold to Oklahoma City in 1924. From there, he went to Dallas and on to San Antonio in 1926.

"Pittsburgh drafted me and sent me to South Carolina — the Piedmont League," he recalled. "I played there two or three years and went to Knoxville, Tennessee in 1930, where I finished up. I played about ten years altogether. \$400 a month was the top pay I ever got. When Boston won the pennant in 1912, they only got \$800."

Ike has no truck for the current furor in Indian circles over sports teams with Indian-related names — after all, he played for the Cleveland Indians. "Baseball's been good to me," he pointed out. "If I hadn't been playing ball, I wouldn't be here today. They took care of me."

Once the baseball days were over, Ike came back home to Oklahoma. He went to work in the Seminole oil fields. He stayed there about four years before moving to Oklahoma City in 1941. During the next 15 years or so, he "was in the Oklahoma and Texas oil fields 12 hours a day, 7 days a week, and I never missed a day," he said.

He was a "derrick man, driller, and rope choker," working on wooden derricks during the early days in Seminole. Eventually Oklahoma City became home, and he has been there ever since.

After some more time in the oil fields, he went to work at Tinker Air Force Base in the water department in 1958, retiring in 1969. Since then, he has spent his time hunting and fishing, he said. "And fishing and fishing and fishing and fishing," added his wife Lou.

They also have been known to travel in their motor home. His ninety years sit lightly on his shoulders and he plans to plant onions many more seasons.

"I'm going to live to 150," he said firmly.

Dear Tribal Members,

My name is Clarice (Vieux) Murdock. I am the daughter of Charles Vieux of St. Louis, Oklahoma and Mary Vieux, deceased. I was born and raised in southern Pottawatomie County; I still live in the area. I graduated from Maud High School in 1975 and have worked for a federal or tribal government since that time.

I was employed by the Citizen Potawatomi Nation in the mid-to-late seventies. From there, I went to work for the U.S. Army Reserve. In April of 1987, I was hired by the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma. I feel that my experience in tribal government can be an asset to our Tribe.

The Citizen Potawatomi recently compacted their BIA programs, becoming a self-governance tribe. The Tribe I am currently employed by was one of the first seven in the nation to become self-governance; I feel that my knowledge in this field could also be an asset.

My own personal experiences over the past year prompted my decision to run for Business Committee, Position No. 2. I am curious as to why we have all of these impressive revenue-generating enterprises and only twelve (12) people per month are allowed referrals for dental appointments. If the Tribe's businesses are generating revenue, is it being put back into services for Tribal members?

I would like to know how much money the Tribe has spent on attorney fees. The *How-Ni-Kan* and local newspapers routinely report on lawsuits the Tribe is involved in. Who is reaping the benefit of these lawsuits? Attorneys? Surely not the tribal members. Have any of the suits proven fruitful?

I feel that there are many issues that Tribal members are not aware of. If elected, I don't want to try and make any radical changes. The only thing I propose to do is find out what is going on within the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's tribal government and let Tribal members know.

I would appreciate your vote on June 26th. Let me help you find out what is going on within our Tribe.

Clarice (Vieux) Murdock



Four new markers ready to dedicate on Trail of Death

Four new historical markers on the Trail of Death Regional Historic Trail will be dedicated in Missouri June 19 and 20. A new Trail of Death marker will be dedicated in Indiana in early August.

The June 19 dedications will be at 10 a.m. at DeWitt town park and at 2 p.m. at the Grand River west of Brunswick. The June 20 dedications will be at 10 a.m. at the North Fork of the Salt River and at 2 p.m. at Mt. Vernon Methodist Church on See's Creek in rural Marion County near Monroe City.

A historical marker for the last Trail of Death campsite in Indiana will be dedicated on Sunday, August 1 at 2 p.m. at Gopher Hill Cemetery, in rural Warren County southwest of Williamsport.

The Trail of Death was the 1838 forced removal of the Potawatomi from northern Indiana to eastern Kansas. All five sites were campsites on the forced removal march. The public is invited to attend these ceremonies.

The DeWitt marker is sponsored by the DeWitt Youth Group and will be in the DeWitt Youth Group Park. This marker commemorates the Trail of Death campsite of October 23, 1838, which was called Thomas' Encampment in the 1838 diary.

The Brunswick marker, sponsored by

POTAWATOMI SCRAPBOOK

Cub Scouts, will be at the Grand River where the Conservation District has built a new picnic shelter. This was the campsite of October 22, 1838, where the Potawatomi ferried across the Grand River.

Clifford and Josephine Gander, Monroe City, Mo., erected a Trail of Death marker at Clinton, Mo., a town that no longer exists. It was later known as Somerset. Clinton was the campsite on October 13, 1838. This is known as the North Fork of the Salt River now.

Josephine Gander's great grandfather, Barnabas Worland, came up from Kentucky in 1839 and bought the farm just west of old Clinton. His daughter, Lou Ellen Jarboe, Josephine's grandmother, married and lived there, and Josephine's father was born there.

George Wesselhoft, Lowell, Indiana, is a descendant of Abram Burnett, a Potawatomi who was on the Trail of Death in 1838. Wesselhoft and family are sponsoring the marker at See's Creek which was the campsite of the emigrating Potawatomi on October 12, 1838. The marker will be placed at the Mount Vernon Methodist Church in the churchyard near the cemetery. The

church was built in 1860 and is one-half mile west of See's Creek bridge, and one mile south of Clifford Gander's farm.

It is believed the actual campsite might have been on Gander's farm because of the description in the 1838 diary. Many arrowheads and artifacts have been found there.

The Trail of Death is now a Regional Historic Trail, as it was approved by resolution of the legislatures of the four states through which the trail passed. This was at the request of the Indian Awareness Center, a branch of the Fulton County Historical Society, Rochester, Indiana.

Shirley Willard, FCHS president, serves as coordinator of the Trail of Death markers. "It is our goal to get a marker at each campsite every 15 to 20 miles," she stated. "Counting this new marker, there are now 53 markers on the Trail of Death Regional Historic Trail."

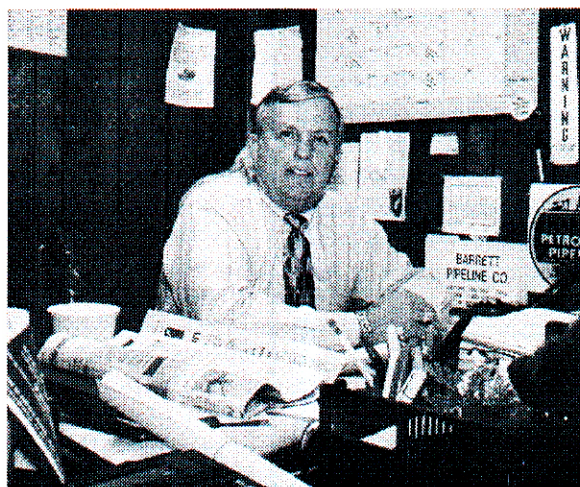
After all the campsites are marked, the group plans to publish a map and guide book showing the locations of all the markers. "We hope that people will stop to read the markers and say a prayer for peace for all mankind," Willard stated.

Tom Hamilton designed the map on his computer. Hamilton, a retired vice president in charge of advertising for ChoreTime Brock, is the great-grandson of Abram Burnett, a Potawatomi who went to Kansas on the Trail of Death. Burnett accompanied Father Benjamin Petit back to St. Louis where Petit died. Hamilton and his family sponsored a Trail of Death marker at Battle Ground Park in 1996.

The annual tribal referendum and election will be held on June 26, 1999. Voting will be at the tribal complex the day of the election from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. Requests to vote an absentee ballot must be made by June 6, 1999. Requests for absentee ballots must be in writing and include the correct mailing address, roll number and legal signature of the person making the request. A referendum budget to determine expenditures of accumulated interest from set-aside funds, as well as the election of tribal officials, will be on the ballot. Requests for tribal election ballots should be mailed to: Potawatomi Election Committee, P.O. Box 310, Tecumseh, OK 74873.



Hilton L. Melot Citizen Potawatomi Business Committee



A vote for Hilton Melot for Business Committee is a vote for:
Experience, Continuity, & Stability
Continued Strong Economic Development
Emphasis on Education Opportunities for Citizen Potawatomi

"I am proud of the progress we Citizen Potawatomi have made in providing jobs, educational opportunities, and a strong, stable tribal government. I am honored you have given me the opportunity to help prepare the way. We have plans for major new economic ventures. Our financial assistance for tribal members' education continues to grow. My pledge is to work for you to insure that this progress continues."

- Hilton Melot.

Potawatomi Festival will help build traditions

Bozhoo, Nikon

I have received a number of comments about the switch from an intertribal pow wow to a "Festival" that includes Indian dancing but is only for Potawatomi families and extended family and employees and their spouses and kids. Most of these comments have been favorable, some have not. There are several very good reasons why the Business Committee made this change. One of them has to do with our history.

I was on the Business Committee when we had our very first intertribal pow wow back in 1972. The thought at that time was to have an intertribal pow wow to get us started in our own traditions — since we had no drums, no singers and no dancers. We were supposed to learn our own ways, after we learned from other tribes, and then teach our people.

Here we are, 27 years later, and we have yet to have more than five Citizen Potawatomi competition dancers enter a contest at our own pow wow.

In 27 years! Even worse, we have no Citizen Potawatomi drum group and no Citizen Potawatomi songs. We had three contestants from our tribe last year that competed. True, we had one heck of an intertribal pow wow. The folks who worked so hard to put it on were very successful — *but what did we have?*

Over the past 27 years, we have developed no traditions. That is the main criticism I have heard: that we have stopped a "tradition" when we changed from an intertribal pow wow. But, remember, this was a competition pow wow where less than 10% of the crowd was Citizen Potawatomi and no more than five Potawatomi competed. Our pow wow had evolved into a big spectator event in which we watched other Indians win a lot of our money. Nothing about it was exclusively Citizen Potawatomi or reflected our "traditions." It was a pow wow that could have been put on in any major dance area in the country and looked no different.

For those of you who feel the tribe is hurt by this change, consider this: Maybe you have confused a commercial public event, such as an intertribal pow wow,



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

By John A. Barrett Jr.

with a Potawatomi tradition. The largest intertribal pow wow in the state is Red Earth, put on by a committee of the City of Oklahoma City. Indians come from everywhere to dance for money. People pay to get in and sit and watch. This is an intertribal pow wow, that is, it is not identified with any particular tribe.

Ours was no different, except we did not charge admission. There are over 2000 Citizen Potawatomi within 30 miles of the tribal headquarters. Did any of you see that many at any pow wow you have attended? No. Most of our people did not attend, felt excluded, self-conscious and left out. No one had ever showed them Potawatomi dances, much less these other kind, and even if they had, they were not about to get in the ring with the professional pow wowers. So we just watched. And finally, our people began to stay home.

That is why we are having a festival with a featured Indian dance just for us. Our people must have a feeling of belonging or they will not attend and participate. We have to create our own tradition. "Tradition" is what we did for the Gathering of the Potawatomi Nations two years ago. Then we had a sacred fire. Then we had songs in our language. Then we had our own dances. An intertribal pow wow is not tradition. "Festival" is the word favored by the Business Committee to signify a new celebration of family — which is what we are. It is not for tourists or even other Indians — only Potawatomi and their families and tribal employees and their families will be invited. All will be registered and given free meal tickets and family identification for the reunions so we can get to know each other and create something that is just ours — that is how traditions are formed.

We just have to get started. We believe this is the way to do it. We have to get more people here. But our people will not come here unless they can have a good time. That is what the festival is about: fun with your family. And, if we are going to shell out \$20,000 in prize money, we want Citizen Potawatomi to have it — because it is Citizen Potawatomi money! We also intend to include traditional activities. We

will provide opportunities to learn Potawatomi language, crafts, and customs. We will have contests, music, laughter, prizes, and prayer — and most of all — family.

If you want to see how a "festival" has built up close relations in a Tribe, ask the Creek Nation about their festival, or the Mississippi Choctaws, or the Oklahoma Choctaws. They have been doing it for years — not a pow wow, a festival. They have special performers like Wade Hays, the country and western singer. They dance both cowboy and Indian. They feast, compete, and have fun.

They have tradition because they know their own ways. We can too. Come to the festival. It will just be for you and me a few thousand of our kinfolks.

Megwetch,

John Barrett

Walking on

Isaac Leonard (Ike) Kahdot

The former Cleveland Indians third baseman (1922) grabbed his hit-and-run bag for the last time on March 31, 1999. Ike was born to Jane Curley Kahdot and Peter Kahdot on October 22, 1901 in Georgetown, Indian Territory (known as Sacred Heart).

Kahdot attended school at Sacred Heart and Shawnee Mission School and later at the Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas. Ike played baseball for semi-pro teams in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, Pittsburg and Coffeyville, Kansas, and for the Oklahoma City Indians. Kahdot worked in the oilfields for the government as a derrick man, driller, and rope-choker during World War II. He retired from Tinker Air Force Base.

Ike was a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. He was the last living full-blood member of the CPN. He was preceded in death by his parents; four brothers; one sister; and, his first wife, Jenny Mae Brown. He is survived by his wife Lutie Kahdot and by nieces Esther Lowden and Marie Whiteman.

Graveside services were held on Friday, April 2, 1999 at the Altoona Cemetery in Altoona, Kansas. Services were under the direction of Brown Funeral Home of Luther, Oklahoma.

Barrett among most influential

The Tecumseh Countywide News and The Shawnee Sun, Pottawatomie County Oklahoma's prize-winning weekly newspapers, recently conducted a rolling poll to determine the ten most influential people in the county.

Citizen Potawatomi Nation Chairman John A. "Rocky" Barrett ended up near the top of the list, at No. 3. Only two people received more votes than Barrett, revered District Judge Glenn Dale Carter, who was on top of the list, and Dr. Joe Taron, a Shawnee dentist who dedicated 20 years to bringing water to the county through the recently-completed Wes Watkins Reservoir. Taron was second in the poll. The poll was a reprise of one conducted ten years ago, in 1989. Carter and Taron were the only two people to appear on both "Top Ten" lists. Each person appearing on the list was interviewed for a series of articles. Here are some excerpts from the interview with Barrett which appeared April 29:

John A. "Rocky" Barrett, chairman of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, received not a single vote ten years ago in the same poll but vaulted to third place a decade later after leading his tribe's phenomenal growth in enrollment, services and especially business enterprises... He began his service to the tribe — while simultaneously engaged in private business — with a vision of what it could become. He likes to recall that the tribal government was run from a trailer 25 years ago and had "less than \$1,000 in the bank ... we hadn't heard the word sovereignty. We were just trying to survive." ... Although Barrett has been tribal chairman during most of this growth, he insists repeatedly that he is only one of many who have made it happen. "Whatever influence people might perceive I have is not mine," he said. "It is a product of the hard work, dedication and imagination of many people, most notably the elected officials (the tribe is governed by a five-member Business Committee) and the hundreds of people who work in our various endeavors ... any perception of me as a community leader is really a perception of the tribe's large influence in the community."

THE OKLAHOMA WALK-IN REGIONAL ART COMPETITION

Will be held in the Long Room

1901 S. Gordon Cooper Dr., Shawnee, OK 74801

(800) 880-9880

The agenda for Saturday, May 22, 1999 is:

9:00 am — registration begins

11:00 am — judging and presentation of awards

**The Art Competition Prizes will be paid as follows:

First Place - \$150 • Second Place - \$100 • Third Place - \$50

Only one place will be paid to each contestant.

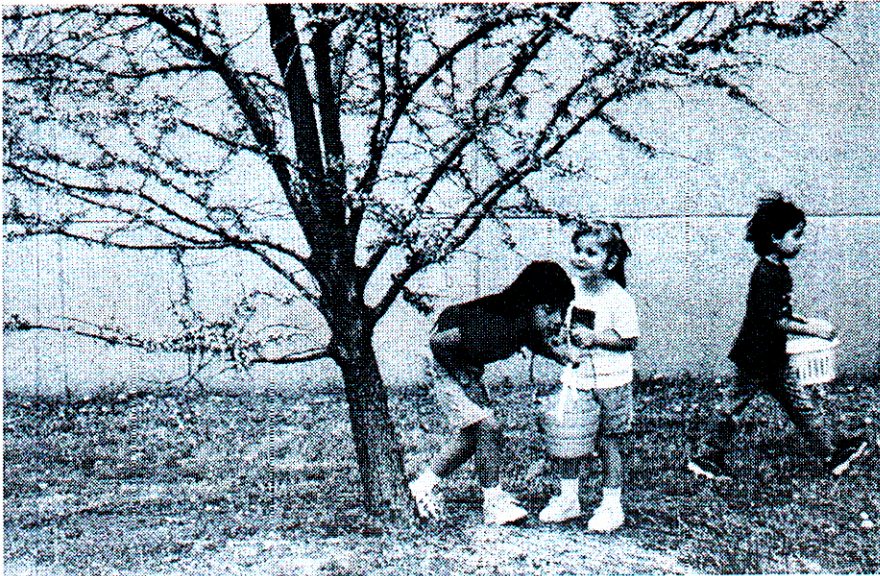
For a copy of the regulations, contact:

CPN Art Competition

1601 S. Gordon Cooper Dr.

Shawnee, OK 74801

Follow The Bunny Trail



Children from the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Child Care Center had a tremendous time at their Annual Easter Egg Hunt. But, who is that man trying to escape with a "Kid Cab" load of children?



South Texas Re

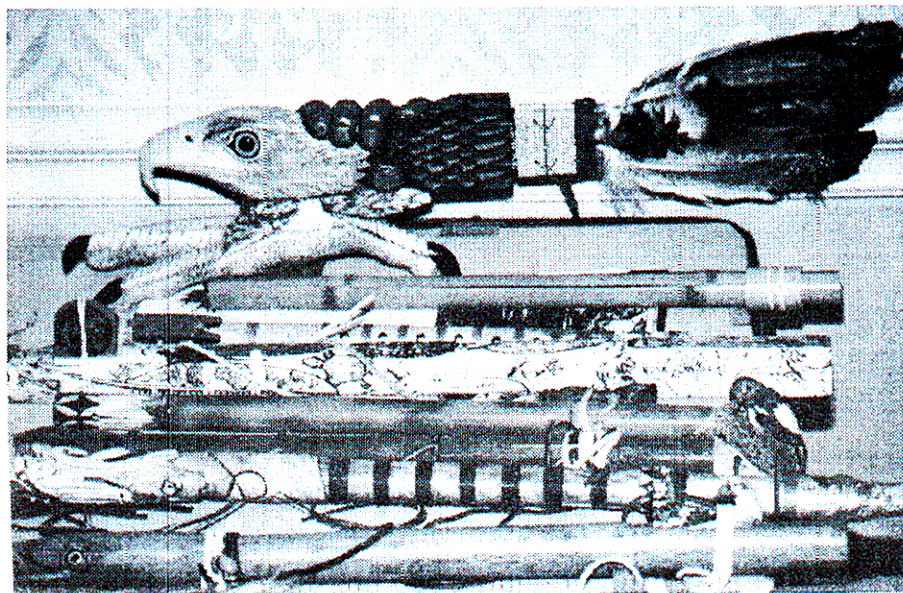


Left: The Houston Region Art Competition winners were: Terry Swarb, First Place, (Terry was unavailable for the photo); Myra Hill (left), Second Place, and, Becky Hansen, Third Place.



Above: Eugene Brown included Chairman Barrett in his storytelling session.

Right: Larry & Mary Slavin and family members enjoyed the Regional Meeting. Larry & daughter Mary Ann are standing. Tonja Slavin Redin, her husband Randy, Tamra and Mary Slavin are seated, left to right.



Left: The art of flute making is depicted in this display. The beauty of the flute music presented by Eugene Brown remains in the memories of the Potawatomi who attended this meeting.



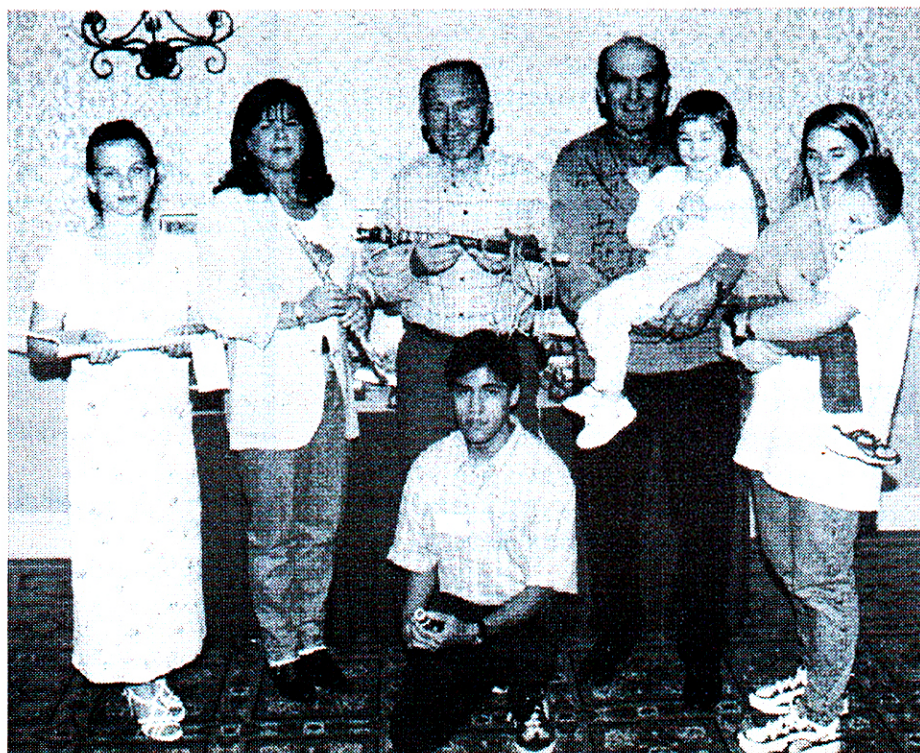
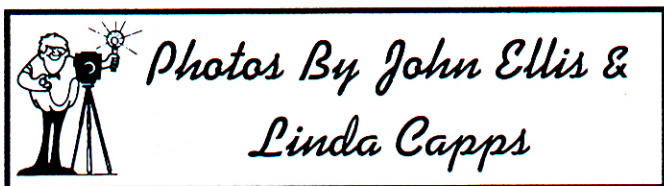
Pat Hall of Tulsa, Oklahoma earned recognition for having driven farther than any other tribal member to attend the Houston meeting. Gene Bruno, Potawatomi Secretary-Treasurer, presents a gift.

gional Council

March 20, 1999



Above: Burton Raymond, 73, of Livingston, Texas was the wisest Potawatomi at the meeting. Business Committeeman Hilton Melot presented a gift to Mr. Raymond.



Above: Eugene Brown, talented artist & flute-maker, poses with the lucky people who won flutes given away as door prizes. They were made specifically for a man, a woman, a teen-aged girl and boy, and a girl and boy child. As the winners stepped before the audience to claim their flutes, Mr. Brown provided a short story to accompany each of the prizes.

Right: Chairman Rocky Barrett holds the Youngest Enrolled Potawatomi at the meeting. The young man is Kai Webb. Kai is 28 months old and the grandson of Buddy Osborne.



Ray Herndon, Lu Ellis, and Dot & Hollis Bryan gather to visit before the meeting.



Regional Office Directory

REGION 1 - OREGON/IDAHO

REGION 2 - WASHINGTON

(INCLUDES ALASKA & HAWAII)

Roscoe "Rocky" Baptiste

Box 346, 525 Ivy Ave., Gervais, OR 97026
Local (503) 792-3744 • FAX (503) 792-3744
Toll-Free (800) 522-3744
e-mail: Region01@Potawatomi.org

REGION 3 - NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Jennifer J. Porter

5033 Vannoy Ave., Castro Valley, CA 94546
Local (510) 886-4195 • Toll-Free (800) 874-8585
e-mail: Region03@Potawatomi.org

REGION 4 - SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Jeremy Bertrand Finch

203 Bellefontaine St., Pasadena, CA 91105
Local (626) 403-0930 • FAX (800) 432-2008
e-mail: Region04@Potawatomi.org

REGION 5 - SOUTHWEST

(INCLUDES ARIZONA & WESTERN NEW MEXICO)

Philonise Williams

20415 N. 29th St., Phoenix, AZ 85024
Local (602) 569-3073 • FAX (602) 569-6935
Toll-Free (800) 452-8966
e-mail: Region05@Potawatomi.org

REGION 6 - COLORADO

(INCLUDES MONTANA, UTAH, WYOMING,
WESTERN NEBRASKA, WESTERN KANSAS)

Penny Bishop

90 Meade Lane, Englewood, CO 80110
Local (303) 761-7021 • FAX (303) 761-1660
Toll-Free (800) 531-1140
e-mail: Region06@Potawatomi.org

REGION 7 - NORTHERN TEXAS

(INCLUDES EASTERN NEW MEXICO)

Marjorie Hobdy

3132 Kathy Lane, Irving, TX 75060
Local (972) 790-3075 • Toll-Free (800) 742-3075
e-mail: Region07@Potawatomi.org

REGION 8 - SOUTHERN TEXAS

Lu Ellis

26231 Huffsmith-Conroe Rd., Magnolia, TX 77355
Local (281) 356-7957 • Toll-Free (800) 272-7957
e-mail: Region08@Potawatomi.org

REGION 9 - MIDWEST

(INCLUDES EASTERN NEBRASKA & EASTERN KANSAS)

12516 Askew Dr., Grandview, MO 64030
Local (816) 761-2333 • Toll-Free (800) 325-6639
e-mail: Region09@Potawatomi.org

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation is divided into different "Regional Offices" to help cover the extended membership across the nation. Originally labeled merely by region names, regional boundaries were established in late 1997 using the US Postal Service "3 digit" Zip code areas. Region '0' is generally considered Oklahoma while the other states that are not numbered currently do not have an official "Region" designator.

REGIONAL REPORTS

Oregon/Idaho/Washington

Bozho Nicon,

Ne Je Na? All's well out here in the Northwest. I have been busy getting the Regional meeting set up, which will be done and over by the time this reaches you. I am sure we all had a good time.

Now we are looking forward to June 25-26-27 in Shawnee. This is always such an exciting time, because you not only can enjoy the Potawatomi Festival but you can also vote in person and listen to the results in our own council meeting. It is always a very important time for me.

I need to remind everyone to

send in for your absentee ballot if you are unable to attend in person. Voting is very important to every one of us members.

I hope to see some of you there this year. Since airfares seem to be going down a little, right now would be a good time to reserve your airfare.

Although we seem to have pow wows all year round out here in the Northwest, spring seems to be the time everyone kicks off the year. We seem to have one, somewhere, every weekend. Below, I have listed some upcoming powwows and native celebrations.

You are welcome to go to any of these gatherings. Usually the announcer will let you know who dances when and what is going on. If in doubt, ask the arena director or the whip man, who attends the arena floor. It is always good to call before traveling a long distance to be sure the pow wow is still holding.

Until we talk again, we wish you the very best. For those of you on the Internet, check out our Northwest web site: <http://welcome.to/nishnabek>.

Megwich,

— Rocky Baptiste

South Texas

"Bosho mine gwi kigdomen ngom, Ni je na?"

For those of you who missed the Council meeting on March 20th here in Houston, I just have to say you really missed so much! We had a great meeting.

The Business Committee came to join us, also Esther Lowden with the Tribal Gift Shop and Bob Trousdale, our Deputy Administrator. These people give up so much of their time to make these meetings enjoyable and informative for us. This time they brought with them a Microsoft PowerPoint software program that tells the History of the People. Kche Mig wech to all of them for what they give so kindly to us.

We also had as guests Mr. Eugene Brown, from Grand Prairie Texas, who is a superlative flute maker and artist, and Ms. Michelle Barclay, who is writing a book on the Genealogy of the Potawatomi Nations.

Mr. Brown not only gave us stories and music with his flutes, all of which were most entertaining and educational, he also donated the six flutes which were given as door prizes.

Ms. Barclay gave those in attendance pages from her book, which pertained to their respective families, and answered many questions about her work.

The artists among you brought in some fine work for the competition. I am glad you are getting excited about participating in these competitions, thereby sharing your talent with all of us.

Terry Swarb took first place,

Myra Hill second, and Becky Hansen third. Ms. Hill donated her \$100 winner's check to the Language Program for the children. My sincere gratitude and many thanks go to her for this generous donation.

Congratulations to all.

We were pleased to see those of you who came out to be with us; we enjoyed our visit with you. There is never enough time to spend with every one in so few hours. I urge you all to come into Shawnee for the Pau Wau the last weekend of June. Then we shall have three days in which to catch up on the news and dance together. Ladies, be sure to bring your shawls.

Things here in these woods are good, the honeysuckle is blooming, the birds are nesting and the deer, raccoons and mosquitoes are healthy. We had a little rain, the dust settled and everything is green. Who could ask for more?

Take good care of each other. Bama pi she anwe,

— Lu Ellis

ATTENTION Citizen Potawatomi NATION MEMBERS

On Saturday, May 22, 1999, there will be a separate Art Competition (different from the Oklahoma Walk-In Regional Art Competition). It is for anyone who is not represented by a Regional Council meeting. Entries must be submitted on 35-mm slides in standard mounts. No glass-mounted entries will be accepted. Please label the slides with the artist's name, the title of the work, the date of completion of the work, the type of medium, and the work's dimensions. Entries should reach tribal headquarters no later than Thursday, May 20, 1999. For more information, contact: CPN Art Competition, 405-275-3121 or 800-880-9880.

DONATIONS TO THE HowNiKAN

James Bressman,
Oregon - \$10
Ruth & Cecil Dunham,
Kiowa, OK - \$10
Patricia & Ellis
Peddicord, Garland,
Texas - \$10
Christine Divine,
California - \$5

REGIONAL REPORTS

North Texas

April here in North Texas seems to be a repeat of last year, already in the 90's and very little rain. So far we have not had any severe weather; I hope that all of our tribal members have escaped the tornadoes that are common this time of year.

My husband and I are heading to Tulsa for a softball tournament and hope it's a good weekend and the rain predicted does not materialize.

I have had some really nice visits on the telephone this month with tribal members. I even had a few visits with people who did not mean to call me. One member called to ask about information on the language. She said her granddaughter is interested. That is what we need, to get the younger generation involved.

I referred her to Esther Lowden, who, I understand, has some tapes for sale in the gift shop and to Norman Kiker who is working with this project. This member also had nice things to say about the help and advice she had received from our headquarters in Shawnee on the purchase of a house.

I have several e-mails and calls regarding health care and still do not have anything to offer except the Dallas Intertribal Center, with its care being funded by the Indian Health Service. As far as I know, there is nothing else available in Texas.

I read in the February How-Ni-Kan about the tribal election June 26 during the General Council and Pow Wow. If you are not able to go to Shawnee to vote, you can request an absentee ballot. But, do be sure to vote and take advantage of your rights as a member of our tribe. And, be sure to reserve the dates for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Festival on your calendar. I look forward to seeing you there.

— Marj Hobdy

Colorado

Greetings From Colorado!

Spring is in the air. Daffodils and crocuses are blooming. The grass is starting to green up. However, Rocky Mountain natives know the threat of a spring snow remains with us, anytime between now and June 1.

I feel the need to apologize to my fellow tribal members for not submitting my article to the HowNiKan in recent months. I have experienced some health and personal issues that needed tending to.

My sincere "Thanks" to everyone who wrote, called, or stopped by to offer their love, prayers, and unconditional support to my family and me. God Bless You All.

I am excited to say that I am rested, ready and looking forward to a busy spring and summer.

March 19-22 was the 25th anniversary of the Denver March Pow Wow. It was an exciting time for everyone in our area and for pow wow followers from coast to coast, border to border.

The Denver Pow Wow made for a full weekend, starting with the ground blessing on Thursday. Five Grand Entries presented dancers and spectators alike with an awesome array of beauty and color. Sixty-eight drum groups provided a variety of new, old, and rich songs.

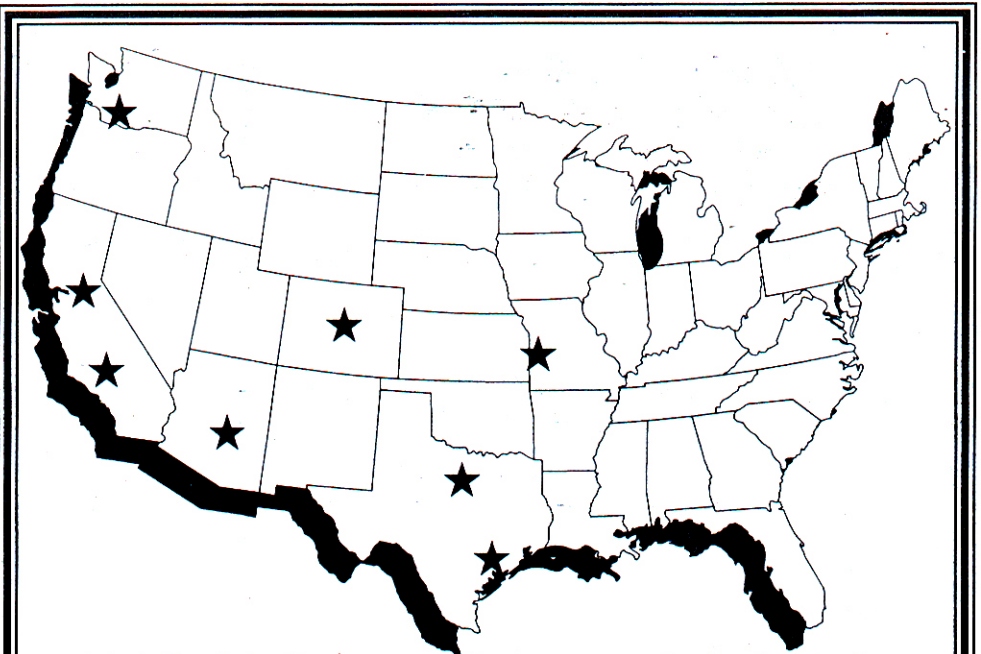
Allison LaPlante (Lakota) from Minneapolis, Minnesota was crowned the 1999 Princess. A hundred and seventy vendors proudly displayed a variety of items for sale.

During the pow wow weekend, my son John and I were delighted to have as our house guests my sister and brother-in-law, Kay and Melvin Konkel of Vilas, Colorado, and their daughter and grandchildren, Shannon Landon, Shane, Quint Shaw, and Shyanne Brinkley, all of Amarillo, Texas.

The weekend activities kept us going in all directions. Overall, I think everyone enjoyed himself. I know that I did.

Until next time,

— Penny Bishop



1998-99 Regional Council Schedule

Denver	Oct. 1, 1998
Dallas	Nov. 7, 1998
Southern California	Jan. 16, 1999
Phoenix	Feb. 6, 1999
Northern California	March 6, 1999
Houston	March 20, 1999
Seattle/Portland	April 24, 1999
Kansas City	May 15, 1999

Northern California

Ahau, niconi,

Where did March go? I almost missed this month's report because April came whistling in so fast ... gusty winds included.

The Indian Valley News, a newsletter from the Santa Clara Valley's American Indian Alliance, listed some scholarship information which may be of use to those of you looking for some help in going to school. They also listed Internet sites where you can access information on many scholarships, other financial aid, and grants. If you'd like a copy of the listing, please don't hesitate to call, write, or email me.

My family and I attended the Indian Charter School pow wow in Oakland a couple of weeks ago. Being at a fund-raising pow wow for a community of children makes for an extra warm, friendly atmosphere. Everyone is so generous and in a festive mood. Lots of raffles and 50-50's bring a lot of smiles and laughter.

We are starting to make plans for the trip to Shawnee for the pow wow in June. Hope to see some of you there! The weather should be mild considering how cold and blustery it is in April, eh?

Not much else to report this time, so I will list some pow wows and hope that you'll take the opportunity to go to a few of them. As always, call ahead to be sure of times and location.

MAY

- 7-9 Stanford Pow Wow 415-725-6944
- 15-16 UC Santa Cruz Pow Wow 408-459-5391
- 22-23 San Francisco State Univ. PW 415-338-1929
- 29-31 Red Road Pow Wow at Casa de Fruta

JUNE

- 5 AIM Sovereign Nations PW, Union City 925-609-8517
- 26 Custer's Last Stand PW 925-609-8517

Wishing you all warm, sunny weather!!!
Be well,

— Jennifer J. Porter

REGIONAL REPORTS

Southern California

Bourzho Nikani!

Greetings from Pasadena!

Let's talk pow wow. The local pow wows in the area (and some a little outside of the area, but worth the trip) are as follows:

MAY 12

UCLA Annual Pow Wow, Intramural Field - Corner of Sunset Blvd. and Westwood Plaza, Los Angeles, Sat 10 am - 10 pm, Sun 10 am - 6 pm. Admission free, \$5 parking, (310) 206-7513

MAY 7-9

28th Annual Stanford Pow Wow, Stanford University, Stanford, (650) 723-4078. (Kind of a long trip, but it's a good one.)

MAY 8-9

Iron Circle Nation Annual Pow Wow, East Los Angeles College, 1301 Avenida Cesar Chavez, Monterey Park (1 block west of Atlantic), (213) 241-0747

MAY 21-23

Medicine Ways Conference and Pow Wow, UC Riverside Soccer Field, Riverside, (909) 787-4143

MAY 28-30

Gathering of the People, Oakbrook Regional Park, Chumash Interpretive Center, 3290 Lang Ranch Parkway, Thousand Oaks, Fri 6 pm - 10 pm, Sat 10 am - 10 pm, Sun, 10 am - 6 pm, (805) 492-8076

JUNE 12-13

6th Annual Intertribal Pow Wow, Boeing North American Recreation Center, 8500 Fallbrook Avenue, Westhills, (818) 364-1933

June 12-13

3rd Annual Intertribal Pow Wow, San Luis Rey Mission Grounds, Mission Avenue, Oceanside, Sat 10 am - 11 pm, Sun Noon - 6 pm, (760) 724-8505 or 727-0595

And finally, if you can't make it back to Shawnee for our own Festival:

June 25-27, 15th Annual Tehachapi Pow Wow, Tehachapi, (805) 822-1118

And, speaking of our Festival, I'm really excited to hear of the plans for our new Citizen Potawatomi Nation Festival!

Is it a radical departure from the intertribal pow wows we usually have? You bet it is, and it's about time. We've proven to Indian country that we can throw a competition pow wow with the best of them, and we have nothing left to prove. While I have great respect for the professional pow wow circuit dancers who come on our land to dance for prize money, I won't miss 'em. I dance with 'em at pow wows all year long. I will again, too. But this is a family gathering, by us and for us.

You know, I was astonished to find out how much it cost us in the past to put on a competition pow wow. Yeow! The way it's been planned out, this year's festival will be less expensive overall, with more prize money going to tribal members, where it belongs.

I also remember how great it felt to have our Potawatomi nights at the pow wows the past two years. Well, this change is more in that direction, and I, for one, welcome it. It's going to feel a lot more like the Gathering of the Potawatomi Nations celebration we had two years ago, with the interests and concerns of our people being addressed first and foremost. We're not throwing up fences and armed guards, after all. Most anyone could show up. We're just having a good time with our families on our land.

I've heard some grouching about the Western dance. The prevailing sentiment seems to be that Indians are categorically good and Cowboys are categorically bad, therefore we shouldn't be having a Western dance. Now exactly how does that work? Are we supposed to hold a grudge toward cowboys for past transgressions? Hey, folks — it was the politicians in suits that did us in, *not the cowboys in boots!* (P.S. it's still that way.)

Are there some racists in boots? You bet. And in Gucci loafers, and in Nike sneakers, and in moccasins! And it was liberals that just about did us in completely, with assimilation and such well-meaning but disastrous programs.

Besides, these days it's a rare Indian who doesn't own at least one pair of cowboy boots and who doesn't have his truck radio more or less permanently tuned to the local country station — even way out on the rez!

The way I look at it, if it's on Potawatomi land, it's a Potawatomi dance. And I can guarantee that there won't be any Indian bashing at a Citizen Potawatomi dance, *with or without* country music.

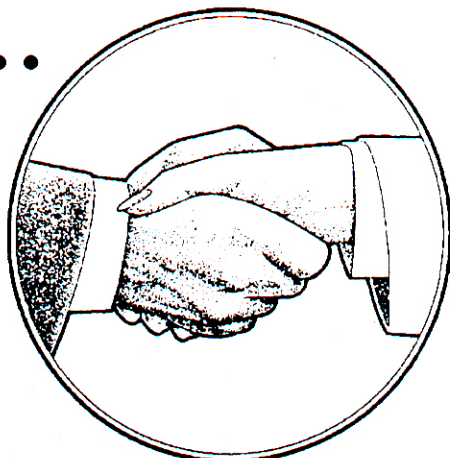
Let's be realistic — not everyone can or wants to traditional dance in leather and feathers. I see a Western dance as a way to include a lot of these non-traditionally oriented tribal members in the fun and pride of being Potawatomi. As for me, I *do* dance in leather and feathers — and paint, too. And I'll be out there in full regalia on Friday night, honoring my ancestors, thanking Creator for my many blessings, and praying for the future. But I'm also practicing my boot-scootin', and on Saturday night I'll have the prettiest date in the roundhouse — my wife — so look out! Hoka hey, and yeeeah!

Be well, blessings on your families, and keep in touch!

Ma ba me na,

— Jeremy Bertrand Finch

Being the kind of bank you need is not an easy job... But it's a job we like a lot.



We've done our best to staff our bank with trained, experienced people... people you can rely on to give you their best. We've tried to offer you all the banking services you'll need or want, with professionalism, accuracy and courtesy. We hope we've always given you the impression that you're great people to work for, because *you are*.

Your business is appreciated!

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Pokagon band to host Gathering July 30-Aug. 1

(Dowagiac, MI) – Members of the seven Potawatomi Nations will come together for two days of fellowship in late July. The seventh annual Gathering of the Nations will be hosted by the Pokagon band of Potawatomi Indians at their reservation at Dowagiac, Michigan.

The dates for the Gathering are Friday, July 30 through Sunday, August 1.

A mini-pow wow on Friday and Saturday evenings highlights the Gathering's list of activities. The pow wow will feature an Open Drum.

Marie Manley, Gathering Committee chairman for the Pokagons, says that her committee is in the process of planning workshops, presentations, and activities for the youth, elders, and Potawatomis of all ages.

Manley adds, "We are limiting our arts and crafts booths. Anyone who would like to rent booth space is asked to provide a brief description of items that will be sold from the booth."

The Pokagon Gathering Committee has contacted several hotels and motels in the Dowagiac area. Rooms are available at these hotels and motels: Quality Inn, Benton Harbor, MI, 616-925-3234; Red Roof Inn, Benton Harbor, MI, 800-843-7663; Inn of Niles, Niles, MI, 616-684-3000; Village Inn, Berrien Springs, MI, 616-471-1354. Rustic camping sites are also available.

Again this year, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation will provide bus transportation to the Gathering for tribal members. Members who are interested should call Cathie Hanson at 405-275-3121 or 800-880-9880.

The Pokagon band regained tribal recognition when President William J. Clinton signed a bill restoring recognition into law in September 1994.

The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians distributes services to its approximately 2600 membership. The tribe has a ten-county service area. Four of these counties are in Southwestern Michigan; six are in northwestern Indiana.

The administration offices of The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians are located at 901 Spruce Street Dowagiac, Michigan 49047. Dowagiac is approximately 30 minutes east of Benton Harbor, MI. Benton Harbor is located on the shores of Lake Michigan.

For more information about Gathering details, contact Lucinda Graverette Smith, Gathering Committee Co-Chairman, at 616-782-0887; Val Baker, Gathering Committee Co-Chairman at 616-463-3669; or Loraine Gideon, Gathering Committee member at 616-782-1763. The Gathering Committee can be reached via e-mail at pokagon@pokagon.com.

Potawatomi Police Chief Dave Kubiak Helps Load Donations For Tornado Victims

Citizen Potawatomi Nation joins tornado relief efforts

By Michael Dodson

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation joined thousands of Oklahoma individuals, organizations, and businesses in the effort to relieve the suffering and discomfort of Oklahomans left homeless by the May 3rd tornadoes.

Citizen Potawatomi Nation personnel delivered a truckload of purchased and donated items to a staging area at Moore High School the next day. Among those items are diapers, toothbrushes, clothes, paper towels, toilet paper, and other staples.

"The people we are helping have lost everything," said Gary Smith, the CPN employee who coordinated collection and delivery of the donation. "They most need items that will help them begin bringing order back to their lives."

Smith said that, after learning the purpose of the items he was buying, managers of the Wal-Mart store in Shawnee added to the effort with a donation from the store.

Gene Burr, Moore High School principal, accepted the donation. National Guardsmen had already delivered 200 cots to allow Moore High to be used as temporary shelter for the newly homeless.

"We're collecting food, clothing, things that are necessary for people just to exist," Burr said. "We have more than 200 cots set up in our small gym, so we're able to house people. We're trying to take care of their basic needs."

Burr is very appreciative of the CPN's — and all other — donations. "We say, 'Thank you, very much!' It's badly needed. People whose homes were hit by the tornado, I mean everything's gone."

Michael Robins, who teaches at a Moore elementary school and whose wife teaches at Moore High, also expressed his thanks to the Potawatomi Nation. "I can't say enough about that organization. They do so many philanthropic things outside of the Native American culture. They stretch out to all areas. It's just a heartfelt measure. I don't think we can really put a thank you in words to express our gratitude."

Although Robins and wife Jana live in Norman and escaped the storm's wrath, he still feels the pain. "For me, it touches home. My wife and I both have students and comrades with whom we teach that have been affected by this."

Some 41 people were killed as a series of massive tornadoes, one measuring F-4 or F-5 on the tornado scale, bulldozed across central Oklahoma. Many neighborhoods in Moore, Del City, and Midwest City — all Oklahoma City suburbs — have been completely destroyed.

Tribal member, children lose lives in accident

Citizen Potawatomi Nation members are mourning the loss of a tribal member and two of her children in a boating accident on Lake Eufala, in southeast Oklahoma, on Friday, April 30. Christina Rice, 30, of Ashland, Oklahoma, and her 11-year-old daughter Casey Nicole Brannon and four-year-old son Seven Wesley Kenney drowned.

A friend of the family, 23-year-old Toby Isom of Kiowa, Oklahoma, also lost his life in the accident. Rice's 12-year-old daughter Christen Renae Brannon survived.

A Lake Patrol spokesman said that

Rice, her children, and Isom were running a trotline near the Cardinal Point Recreation Area on Lake Eufala. According to the Lake Patrol, the boat began filling with water and sinking at about 9:15 p.m. on April 30. Everyone in the boat swam for shore. Only Christen Brannon was able to reach shore safely. She was treated at McAlester Regional Hospital and released.

Funeral services for Rice and her children were held at the Pittsburg School Gymnasium in Pittsburg, Oklahoma on Tuesday, May 4.

Tribe to host national tourney to raise scholarship money

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation, The Mashantucket Pequot Nation, and the Tamanend Foundation of the Western Delaware Tribe of Oklahoma have come together to co-sponsor a scholarship fund-raiser. The three tribes will host the inaugural event of the Native American golf tour at the Potawatomi Nation's FireLake Course on Monday, August 23, 1999.

The event is planned as a celebrity Pro-Am. Teams of four amateur Native American golfers will be joined by a professional golfer or a celebrity for a best ball-type scramble event. Organizers have invited PGA and PGA-Nike tour pros to participate.

"Proceeds from this event will be used to build scholarship funds to help Native American youth obtain a higher education and get access to recreational activities through golfing," said John "Rocky" Barrett, Citizen Potawatomi Chairman.

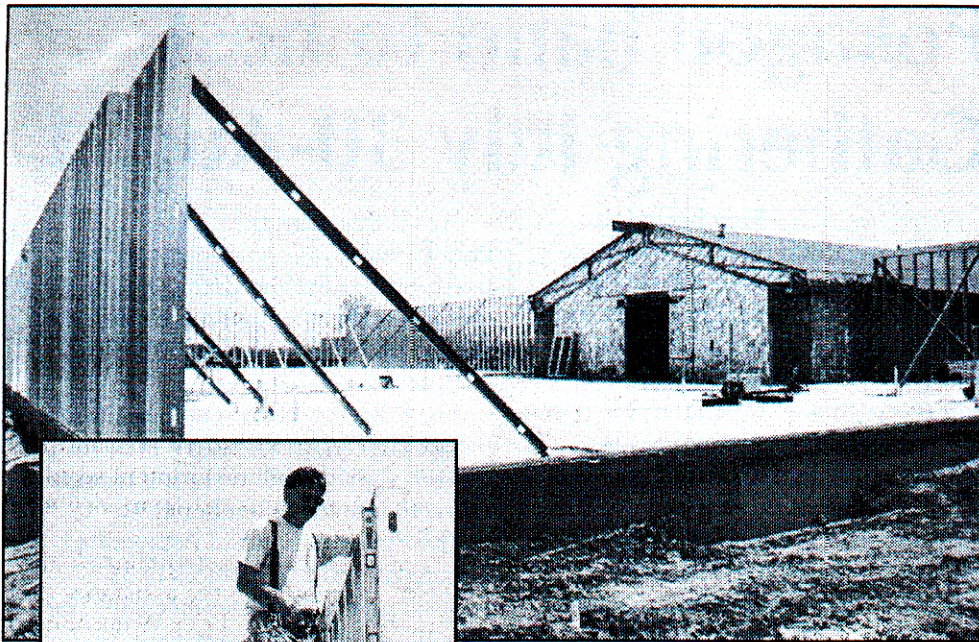
Larry Snake, Western Delaware President, added, "We envision this as the initial tournament on a Native American Golf Tour that will be played on tribally-owned courses across the United States."

There are more than 30 tribally owned golf courses in the United States. "The Native American Golf Tour is a grassroots charitable activity initiated by the Potawatomi, Delaware, and Pequot Nations," Barrett said.

"The Delaware Tamanend Foundation is combining its expertise and resources with that of the Potawatomi and Pequot Nations to promote jobs, higher education opportunities, and a better quality of life for Native Americans through golf," said Harold Pruner, Co-CEO of the Foundation.

Activities surrounding the inaugural NAGT event at FireLake include: a seminar for tribal leaders, a Sunday evening Pairings Party, an auction of sports memorabilia and original Native American art and jewelry, and great Native American food and refreshments.





Going Up

Construction is progressing nicely on the new Citizen Potawatomi Nation Heath Center. These photos by Dennis Tiger show work being done in mid-April.

Nation's Title VI program earns additional funding

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Title VI Program has received additional funding for its services. Tribal officials say that the additional funding comes by way of the program's expanding its service area to include Pottawatomie, Cleveland, and Oklahoma counties and by allowing all Native American elders, who are 55 or older, the opportunity to participate.

The Title VI program's purpose is to meet the nutritional and socialization needs of Native American elders. The program provides noon lunches for Native American elders, as well as such activities as dominoes, bingo, oil painting, ceramics, dances, and various trips.

The Title VI Program gives Native American elders, some of who have no family, a chance to come together and share one another's company.

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation also provides transportation for Native Americans in Pottawatomie County. This service is available to all Native Americans, with priority given to elders. The cost of transportation is \$1.25 for a one-way trip or \$2.50 for a round trip. A 24-hour notice is needed when requesting transportation.

For more information regarding the Title VI Program or for transportation needs, please contact Denise Lackey at (405) 878-4833.

Nation helps makes housing dreams come true

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation has experienced a tremendous response since announcing the startup of the Housing Authority. The Authority now has more than 350 applications on file.

In the How-Ni-Kan, the housing program has published a list of names of tribal members who do not have completed applications on file. The Housing Authority has also mailed letters to tribal members who have not completed their applications.

To be eligible for any of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation housing programs, tribal members must have a completed housing application on file with the Housing Authority.

The Housing Authority also encourages any other tribal members who have housing needs, along with anyone else who might be eligible for assistance, to contact the Authority office. The telephone number for requesting a housing application is (405) 878-4819.

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Housing Authority is structured differently than the Indian housing authorities of the past. The Authority does not plan to be in housing management. Its emphasis will be on financing home ownership opportunities or Potawatomis.

The Authority is attempting to finance tribal members' futures, not their pasts. The Nation owns a bank and has established a mortgage department. The Housing Authority is using the bank, HUD funding, and other funding sources to help Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal members who live both inside and outside the tribal jurisdiction.

HOME Program Grants

"Already, we have 30 applicants, for the 35 available grants, for the HOME program" said Bob Carlile, Housing Authority director. "The HOME program provides grants to qualified tribal members for as much as 50% of the cost of a house."

In order to be eligible for a HOME Program grant the prospective homeowner has to have clear title to at least one-and-one-half acres of land, located within the Citizen Potawatomi Nation jurisdiction.

The jurisdiction is bounded by the North bank of the North Canadian River, the South bank of the South Canadian River, the Pottawatomie-Seminole county line, and the Indian Meridian, which lies one-half mile west of mile marker 167 on Interstate 40.

Home Ownership Program

This component will assist families in maintaining home ownership by refinancing mortgages or in becoming home owners by providing grants. The grants are to be used to assist with down payments and/or closing costs in amounts allowing the prospective homeowner to qualify for a mortgage.

The program will also provide mortgage guarantees and cause the issuance of tax-exempt housing revenue bonds.

Program requirements are:

1. Membership in a Native American Tribe.
2. An income no larger than 80% of median income.
3. The ability to qualify for a home loan.

The goal is to initiate a rehabilitation program for single-family units.

Program requirements are:

1. Membership in a Native American Tribe.
2. An income no larger than 80% of median income.
3. Title to the housing unit to be rehabilitated.

4. Execution of a five-year payback agreement for the amount of the rehabilitation cost. Insurance and interest costs are included in the payback. The elderly and disabled will be excluded from payback requirements.

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Housing Authority is pursuing all avenues for providing housing assistance to eligible families within the jurisdictional bound-

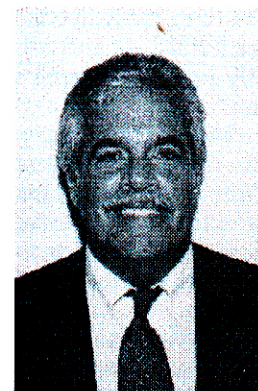
aries of the Nation.

The Housing Authority is compiling a waiting list for housing services. To be placed on the list, you need to request a housing application by calling the Authority office at (405) 878-4819, or by visiting the office, which is located beneath the Tribal Museum on the North side.

The mission of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Housing Authority is to provide tribal members with the opportunity for affordable, safe, and sanitary housing while building stronger, healthier communities and promoting economic independence for our clients.

Barry Branscum

CPN Grievance Committee



"I was born in Shawnee and raised in Seminole, the son of Joyce Peltier Branscum and the late Truman Branscum. My great-grandfather was Henry Peltier. I am very interested in tribal affairs and believe I can contribute to the progress the tribe is experiencing, while respecting the traditions and values we all share as Citizen Potawatomi."

— Barry Branscum.

Oklahoma State University Graduate

Experience: Four Years Federal/Oklahoma Government, Primarily School Lunch/Food Stamp Programs;

Six Years Oilfield Chemical Sales/Service;

Vice President Canadian Mud, Inc.

Twelve Years, Healthcare Equipment Sales/Service

Currently: Native American Account Executive, Americare, a Home Healthcare Company Serving Central and Eastern Oklahoma.

National battle for IIM accounts justice continues

By Michael Dodson

(Okmulgee) – The battle for justice for Native Americans whose assets have been mismanaged by the Department of the Interior has continued over the past month. And, Citizen Potawatomi tribal members are in the thick of the effort.

A federal court in Washington, D.C. is hearing a suit seeking to have Individual Indian Money accountholders made whole. One accounting audit indicates that as much as \$2.4 billion is unaccounted for in 300,000 to 500,000 accounts.

Mineral royalties, land lease income, and other money flows into these accounts on behalf of individual Native Americans. The Interior Department lacks the accounting technology and the records to determine, with certainty, how much money should be in each account.

Plaintiffs in the class action suit also claim that the Interior Department has earned a far smaller rate of return from investing this money than it should have.

Research by tribal members indicates that at least 800 IIM accounts set up for Citizen Potawatomi members are affected. At a meeting in Okmulgee, Ruby (Bruno) Withrow, a tribal member and the granddaughter of Mose and Frances Bruno, told her family's story. Withrow said that the Bruno family has learned these details in exhaustive research at an Interior Department records storage warehouse in Ft. Worth, Texas.

"This has to do with my grandfather's allotment near Konawa, which he received when he was 13 years old," Withrow explained. "After my grandfather received his allotment, the government was not much interested in him until it became known that there was oil in that part of the country."

In 1929, twenty acres from Mose Bruno's allotment was removed from trust status; ownership was transferred to a lawyer and an oilman. A well that, according to Withrow, is still capable of producing 16 barrels of oil per day was drilled on what had been Mose Bruno's land in 1933.

"The point of Mose Bruno's story," Withrow said, "is that, if that land had remained part of my grandfather's allotment, he would not have died penniless and on old age assistance."

Bruno also refused an oil company's offer of \$100 to allow it to dump saltwater into a creek that ran near his land, Withrow said. "This was before there were all these environmental groups. But, my grandfather knew that saltwater was not good for his land."

"According to the documents," Withrow told the audience, "the land was sold to satisfy a \$97 grocery bill. Mose Bruno's heirs saw very little from the sale of that land. There were funeral bills to pay, and that \$97."

"It makes me very angry, and it makes me sad, to think about what happened to my grandparents. Six oil wells were drilled on my grandfather's land, not including the one that is still pumping, and another that was drilled



Ruby Bruno Withrow Speaks As National Media Listen

after the land no longer belonged to my family," Withrow said.

"This makes me want to see justice, if there is such a thing in this world today. We want to see a vindication of my grandfather," Withrow said. "We want to see someone, somewhere, somehow restore what was stolen from him, what was mismanaged – and, mismanaged is a very charitable word for what happened to my grandfather."

Withrow said that the Bruno family document search turned up papers that showed 10% was deducted from her grandfather's IIM account as deposits to it were made. That money went into a Bureau of Indian Affairs account known as "Special Deposits."

At the meeting in Okmulgee, John Echohawk, executive director of the Native American Rights Fund, reported that Congress is considering making an appropriation to attempt to make IIM accountholders whole. However, Echohawk said, Congress is considering taking the money for that purpose from the BIA appropriation for tribal programs.

If that happens, Echohawk said, "the federal government would, in effect, be making us pay to fix the trust fund system rather than having the federal government come up with the money. I don't think that's fair at all, and we're going to need everyone's help to raise this issue if Congress attempts to do that."

Echohawk said that it's only fair that Congress appropriate new money to fix "a system that it has neglected for so long."

Echohawk reported that the class action suit is moving toward a June 1999

trial date. "That will be on the issue of fixing the (accounting) system," he said. "We want to look at the system that the

government is using to administer IIM accounts, identify its inadequacies. We want to have the federal court order the government to fix them – in a timely fashion."

The case's next phase would involve restoring the correct amount to each account. According to Echohawk, "This would involve determining, based on the few documents we can gather, how much money should be in each account, if it had not been lost or mismanaged. The federal government would then be required to restore money to each account."

The Native American plaintiffs and NARF have enlisted the assistance of the accounting firm Price Waterhouse to assist in shaping the case for restoring money to the IIM accounts. Price Waterhouse is best known for counting Academy Awards ballots for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

The IIM accounts suit began to grab national attention in February, when Federal Judge Royce Lamberth held the Secretaries of the Interior and the Treasury in contempt of court for failing to produce documents the five lead plaintiffs need to argue their case.

The New York Times and NBC News sent reporters to Oklahoma in March. Reporters from National Public Radio, NBC News, and the Scripps-Howard News Service covered the meeting in Okmulgee and interviewed numerous IIM accountholders.

Dear Tribal Members,

My name is Teresa Vieux, daughter of Charlie Vieux of St. Louis, Oklahoma and Mary E. (Holmes) Vieux, now deceased. My great-grandparents were Charley Vieux and Madeline Bourbonais.



Currently, I am Grievance Committee Person #3 and have been for one year. In that year, I have learned so much about tribal government rules and regulations.

I want to aid my people in any way that I can. I feel that it is both a duty and an honor. I will give 100% to assist any tribal member.

I would appreciate your vote on June 26.

Chairman addresses Indian Higher Education Forum

By Michael Dodson

(Norman, OK) — A Native

American nations statutory framework must be in place if it is to successfully pursue economic development. That was Citizen Potawatomi Nation Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett's theme as he addressed participants in the Second Annual American Indian Higher Education Forum.

Held at the University of Oklahoma, the forum presented speakers and discussions from both a real-world and an academic perspective. Topics ranged from *How to Market Tribal Resources to Corporations* to *Tax Incentives Tribes can Offer to Business* to *Models of Economic Development in Indian Country*.

Speaking at lunch on the first of two days of the conference, Chairman Barrett said, "In order to best explain how the Citizen Potawatomi nation reached where it is today with economic development, I need to tell you something about how we re-structured our government and how the Nation has reacted with our community as we grew and continue to grow.

"A change in government structure paved the way for the Nation to take advantage of business opportunities," Barrett explained. "Our government structure was set up under the 1936 Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act," he said. "They gave us this little, fill-in-the-blanks constitution that created a General Council (that controlled the tribes government).

"The General Council



At left, Chairman Barrett With Phillip Martin of the Mississippi Choctaw; Larry Snake of the Western Delaware of Oklahoma and Gene Bread of the University of Oklahoma. At right, Chairman Barrett Makes A Point.



structure allowed a majority of a quorum of just 50 tribal members to adopt Potawatomi Nation policy. To introduce more democracy, the Nation opened the decision-making process to tribal members across the U.S."

According to Chairman Barrett, under the old constitution and government structure, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation had no structure that a prospective business partner could rely on to determine whether a possible venture could succeed.

"We had no independent courts. We had no statutes. We had no codes. We had no regulations," Barrett explained.

"If we were going to have any kind of economic development, we had to create some way to produce a favorable business environment.

"A major part of that is developing a fair set of laws and codes that govern business transactions within the Nation's jurisdiction. There must also be a forum, the independent court system, in which business partners know they can depend on a fair airing and disposition of disputes."

Once that infrastructure was in place, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation went to work on developing trust in its word to business partners and

customers.

With businesses open, the Nation set about insuring the facilities are attractive and inviting. Chairman Barrett said that successful businesses are able to answer yes to several appearance-related questions: Is the place physically inviting to come to? Is it clean? Is it mowed, well-kept? Is it someplace that the public can look at and know that you care?

The O.U. forum participants also learned that the Potawatomi Nation views gaming earnings and government program funds as "seed money." Chairman Barrett explained, "They are both going to go away. The (Sen.) Slade Gortons and the (Rep.) Ernest Istooks will eventually prevail. If you haven't re-invested those moneys back into business infrastructure, you will have eaten the seed corn."

According to Chairman Barrett, two other important Citizen Potawatomi decisions were to own and operate, rather than license and tax, the Nation's businesses and to become involved in public relations.

Echoing Mississippi Choctaw Chief Phillip Martin, another Education Forum speaker, Barrett said, "It is like Chief Martin said, 'If you don't run your own business, you can't expect it to be successful.'"

Barrett said that there was a time when no one knew that the Potawatomi Nation has one of the largest payrolls in Shawnee,

Oklahoma. "(There was a time when) people stopped me on the street and said, 'You Indians are still a load on the backs of the taxpayers.'"

Recently, Barrett told the audience, one of those people approached him with a different tune: "You guys (the Potawatomi) are buying up the whole town."

A part of the public relations/outreach effort is leadership and staff participation in civic events and organizations. "From our Business Committee, administration, and staff, someone is a member of the Shawnee and Tecumseh Chambers of Commerce, the Rotary Club, the Kiwanis Club, the Elks Club, Lions Club, the Business and Professional Women's Club. We spend a lot of time interacting with the community."

Concluding his time with the Education Forum participants, Chairman Barrett said, "If I leave you with only one thing that I believe is the key to economic success in Indian Country, it is this: The only way to get the community to invest in you is for you to invest in the community.

"Indian Country businesses can succeed only by persuading the rest of the folks to spend their money with you," Barrett said. "And, you can only do that by putting it right back into the community. If you don't have the dollars, invest the time."

CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION

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ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE & ZIP: _____

Under penalty of perjury, I hereby declare this to be my legal signature and Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal Roll Number:

SIGNATURE: _____ TRIBAL ROLL #: _____

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